

the inspector General Act, much has changed in the way the Federal Government manages its programs and operations. A series of new management laws—including the Chief Financial Officers Act, the Government Performance and Results Act, and the Federal Information Security Management Act—are dramatically changing the management and accountability of the Federal Government, and the Inspectors General are playing a critical role in the implementation of these laws.

American taxpayers deserve no less from their government than the utmost accountability for their hard-earned money. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and salute the Inspectors General for their extremely important work on behalf of the American taxpayers.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 70.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

The title of the joint resolution was amended so as to read: "Joint resolution commending the Inspectors General for their efforts to prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, and to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Federal Government during the past 25 years."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EDDIE MAE STEWARD POST OFFICE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1883) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1601-1 Main Street in Jacksonville, Florida, as the "Eddie Mae Steward Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1883

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1601-1 Main Street in Jacksonville, Florida, shall be known and designated as the "Eddie Mae Steward Post Office".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Eddie Mae Steward Post Office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1883.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1883 was introduced by our esteemed colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), which designates this postal facility in Jacksonville, Florida, as the Eddie Mae Steward Post Office.

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All Members of the Florida State delegation have cosponsored the legislation as is required by the rules of our committee.

Eddie Mae Steward lived nearly her entire life in Duval County, Florida. She became an institution in that area. After graduating from Douglas Anderson High School and Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, she began a life of public activism. Ms. Steward became the first female president of the local NAACP chapter in Jacksonville and rose to the level of Florida State president of the NAACP. Naming this post office after her in Jacksonville would be a wonderful tribute to her life of philanthropy.

Mr. Speaker, Eddie Mae Steward sadly passed away in March of 2001 at the age of 61. The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) introduced identical legislation to 1883 last year, and it passed the House, but not the Senate, before the end of the 107th Congress. With today's passage by the House, we would hope that H.R. 1883 can be presented to the President for his signature before the end of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to see this bill on the floor of the House today to dedicate a post office in Jacksonville to Ms. Eddie Mae Steward. Eddie Mae Steward left her mark on her community in many ways.

Eddie Mae Steward single-handedly launched the effort that led to the court-ordered desegregation of Duval County's public schools, she was the first female president of the Jacksonville branch of the NAACP, and served as the State NAACP president from 1973 to 1974.

She also served as the secretary of the Duval County Democratic Executive Committee. A graduate of Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, she was truly a dedicated civil rights activist.

Ms. Steward was the first to take on the fight to improve the infrastructure

of public schools for children in Jacksonville. One school in particular, Boylan Haven, a private school for African American girls, was described to be unfit by any standard. Ms. Steward took on the local school board, and after a three-week battle and intense pressure from Ms. Steward and local civil rights activists, the school board decided to send the students to other area schools. Today, Eddie Mae Steward remains a tribute to those willing to undertake great risks to bring about social justice.

Much like those before her who struggled against the injustice of status quo, she was referred to as a "troublemaker." However, it was fundamental fairness, strong principles, and the strength of her conviction that led her to become a visionary and courageous leader.

Ms. Steward leaves six children. And I am honored to recognize Eddie Mae Steward with this post office designation. I urge support for this measure.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would advise the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that we have no additional speakers. I am prepared to yield back when she is.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 1883 which names a postal facility in Jacksonville, Florida, after Eddie Mae Steward. This bill was sponsored by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) and has the support and cosponsorship of the entire Florida State delegation. The measure was unanimously reported out of committee on September 12, 2003.

Eddie Mae Steward, a native Floridian and lifelong resident of the Jacksonville community, was well known as a community leader and civil rights activist. She began her career as a civil rights advocate when she filed the suit for desegregation for the Duval County School System. She continued her efforts on behalf of her community by leading a series of successful fights to improve run-down public schools in Jacksonville.

In 1972, Eddie Mae Steward became the first female president of the Jacksonville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a position she held for 6 years. She also served as the Florida State NAACP president from 1973 to 1974, as well as secretary of the Duval County Democratic Executive Committee. Sadly, she passed away on March 5, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for seeking to honor the late Eddie Mae Steward by naming a postal facility near her family home in Jacksonville, Florida. I urge the swift passage of H.R. 1883.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1883.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1442) to authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1442

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. VISITOR CENTER.

Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 6. VISITOR CENTER.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized to construct a visitor center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia, or its environs, subject to the provisions of this section, in order to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War.

"(2) LOCATION.—The visitor center shall be located underground.

"(3) CONSULTATION ON DESIGN PHASE.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. shall consult with educators, veterans groups, and the National Park Service in developing the proposed design of the visitor center.

"(b) APPLICATION OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Commemorative Works Act) shall apply, including provisions related to the siting, design, construction, and maintenance of the visitor center, and the visitor center shall be considered a commemorative work for the purposes of that Act, except that—

"(1) final approval of the visitor center shall not be withheld;

"(2) the provisions of section 8908(b) of title 40, United States Code requiring further approval by law for the location of a commemorative work within Area I shall not apply; and

"(3) the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into a written agreement with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. for specified maintenance needs of the visitor center.

"(c) OPERATION.—The Secretary of the Interior shall—

"(1) operate the visitor center; and

"(2) as soon as practicable, in consultation with educators and veterans groups, develop a written interpretive plan for the visitor center in accordance with National Park Service policy.

"(d) FUNDING.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc. shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of expenses of, the establishment of the visitor center. No Federal funds shall be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the visitor center."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO) and the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO).

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1442, which I introduced and that was amended by the Committee on Resources, authorizes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to establish an underground visitor center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to better inform and educate the public about the Memorial and the Vietnam War.

My colleagues may not remember, but back in 1979 Congress authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to raise the necessary funds to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known more commonly as The Wall. The Fund met its goal, raising over \$8 million. And on November 13, 1982, The Wall was opened to the public. I have no doubt that the Fund will meet its goal for the visitor center.

The Fund has been integrally involved with the Memorial since 1982, and I expect that it will also be integrally involved with the visitor center. While the center will be operated by the Park Service, the National Park Rangers will work side by side with volunteers and educators from the Memorial Fund and other veterans' organizations in assisting visitors as they seek a better understanding of the Memorial and our involvement in the war.

Today over 4.4 million people annually visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the most visited Memorial in our Nation's capital. Some come to "The Wall That Heals" to sketch the name of their fallen mother or father, brother or sister on a piece of paper, while others come for a solemn moment with a fallen comrade. It has become the quietest place in our Nation's capital.

No Federal funds will go toward the design and construction of the visitor center. Once completed, the maintenance costs will be shared by the Fund and the National Park Service.

Once built, the visitor center and The Wall will work in synergy to provide a profound educational experience unlike any other monument or memorial. While the exhibits for the visitor center will be determined once it is built, I expect that some of the 60,000 personal articles that have been left by family members over the years at the Memorial will find a permanent home.

A visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is the right thing to do. It is our moral responsibility to provide a place where the thousands of stories of profiles in courage can be told and shared with fellow Americans.

Too many visitors to The Wall walk away not truly knowing the impact the Vietnam War had on our country, the men and women who fought in Vietnam and the lives of those families who

lost their mothers and fathers, sons and daughters. While there are the names of 58,235 men and women on The Wall who made the ultimate sacrifice for democracy and security, I do not know how the draft affected their families, who they were, where they came from, or how they felt about the war. A visitor center could begin to answer some of these questions.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial will offer the visitor a more comprehensive understanding as to the evolution of the Memorial and why America got involved in Vietnam in the early 1950s, committed itself until 1973, making it our Nation's longest military conflict, spanning six Presidential administrations and sacrificing the lives of over 52,000 Americans.

I know my colleagues who unselfishly served this country during the Vietnam War with honor and duty, such as two of the original cosponsors of the bill, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), agree with me that the visitor center is needed.

This bill represents a true bipartisan effort. I would like to thank the Committee on Resources ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the Committee on Resources vice chairman, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS), and our colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), for their support and efforts in moving this legislation forward.

I would also like to thank Jan Scruggs of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and a number of his colleagues from veterans organizations across the country, Don Murphy, Deputy Director of the National Park Service and his staff, and David Watkins, of the minority staff, for all of the hours that they put in working with the majority staff in moving this bill forward.

Finally, I would like to thank my constituents, Leo Burke of Stockton, California, a veteran of World War II, and Retired Air Force Colonel Robert Frank of Pleasanton, California, a veteran of the Vietnam War. Both have been instrumental in raising the awareness of H.R. 1442 and support for the visitor center.

I would also like to thank the members of the Karl Ross Post Number 16 American Legion in Stockton, California, and the Vietnam War veterans from the tri-valley area in my district for their support of this legislation.

H.R. 1442, as amended, is supported by the majority, minority of the Committee on Resources and the administration. It has been an honor for me to serve in helping to move this much-delayed legislation forward.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1442 as amended. I look forward to this important legislation becoming law.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.